[11th March 1959]

APPENDIX VII.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 710 asked by Sri M. Kalyanasundaram at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 11th March 1959, page 19 supra.]

Investigations on the remedial measures for betelvines against a widespread disease called wilt are in progres in the Madras State. The present position is indicated below :—

(1) *Trials to test the efficacy of various fungicides in controlling the wilt disease of betelvine.*—Bordeaux mixture was found comparatively better than the other treatments in controlling the disease although, in unusually severe cases of infection, no difference could be noticed between treated and untreated plots.

(2) *Varietal trials.*—Both the varieties of this tract namely 'Pachai Kodi' and 'Karpuri Kodi' were found to be susceptible to the wilt disease caused by the fungus Phytopthora sp. and the branch wilt caused by a bacterium.

(3) *Cultural trials on spacing and irrigation.*—No large difference could be observed between the different treatments.

(4) *Manurial trials.*—It was found that nitrogenous fertilizers tended to increase the incidence of the disease.

(5) *Grafting studies.*—Wilt pepper plants were collected from Kodaikanal hills and Yercaud and are grown in pots. They were tested for their resistance to diseases before grafting. Betelvine was grafted on wild pepper rootstocks. The successful grafts are under observation.

Betelvine seed vines obtained from Malabar have been planted in pots to observe their resistance to the wilt disease.

2. The expenditure incurred during the current year up to January 1959 is Rs. 6,287.